

Cégeps to hold city-wide protest

Tensions increasing, say representatives

BY JOSEPH MONAHAN

Seven local Cégep organizations are planning a city wide protest tomorrow, to press Higher Education Minister Lucienne Robillard to call off various reforms of the Cégep system.

A spokesperson for the Bureau d'Information de la Coalition Collégiale, (BICC), said tomorrow's protest will be simply a meeting of local Cégep student associations; but that many national associations affiliated with teacher unions will also unite in Québec city tomorrow.

All sides have been waiting for well over a month to hear Robillard's official proposals. Her proposed reforms were leaked early in the month of February.

The protest will not be held in coordination with the larger Cégep associations, said Frédéric LePointe, spokesman of Fédération des Etudiant(e)s Collégial(e)s du Québec (FECQ).

LaPointe said that such protests will continue until Robillard announces her plan, "We can't wait until next year or whenever she plans to finally announce it. And if we wait until after the reforms are in place, what would be the point?"

Gérald Larose, president of the Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux condemned Robillard's silence on the reforms.

CEGEP Vieux Quebec



"Robillard's failure to act quickly and quell rumors about her proposed forms has been creating tensions among faculty, students, and administrators. The result is that everybody is unhappy, students as well as staff. Québec is looking for trouble if Robillard does not act quickly," said Larose.

Robillard said that she plans to reveal her reforms officially next month.

Last Thursday at the Collège de Maisonneuve over one hundred students protested, blocking all entrances to the college. The principal, Pierre Leduc, fearing the school would suffer vandalism, called in

the police. Over forty students were arrested and will be facing charges of mischief.

Hadi Haffaoui, spokesman for the student association of the Collège de Maisonneuve, said the protest was against reforms which would lead to tuition fees, making a college education inaccessible to many students.

"We were surprised that Leduc called the police. He acted much too quickly. We were only protesting the reforms and had no intention to vandalize. Actions like that are making things go from bad to worse," said Haffaoui.

Students not united

Among the changes Robillard proposed were tuition fees ranging from \$45 to \$75 per course for students who required more than one extra semester to graduate and for those who failed more than five courses.

The various Cégep associations have all declared themselves uniformly opposed to such a measure, stating that it will only serve to encourage the most vulnerable students to drop out of school.

Many Cégep students, however, are not concerned by the proposed fees; saying that the penalties are just. But they are opposed instead to another one of Robillard's proposals: the elimination of physical education courses.

Two weeks ago, for instance, students from the Cégep du Vieux Montréal, in protest against the elimination of physical education courses, blocked the Boulevard de Maisonneuve, by playing street hockey.

Cégep associations, however, have treated this reform as less harmful than the possible Cégep tuition penalties, often even leaving it out of their platforms of opposition.

The dichotomy between the Cégep associations and the students themselves complicated the task of the reform protesters. For example, the city wide protest tomorrow was originally intended to be a nation wide protest, but was rejected by the students.

"This confusion about which reforms will actually be proposed has tested the patience of most of us. The fact is that we are not opposed to all reforms. We realize that some are inevitable and even beneficial. But with all of the rumors about tuition fees and departments being eliminated and all of the general confusion, you would think that Robillard would set things straight," said Haffaoui.

Many students have condemned Robillard for using pressure tactics in her opposition to the protests. She warned students and teachers earlier this month that if declare "Study days," (ie, cancel classes) in protest of her reforms, she will increase the length of the school year.

External Affairs to Shift Aid to Eastern Europe

Projects in the Third World will suffer, say McGill profs

BY HASAN KARRAR

Several McGill professors are upset at a national development agency's proposal to reallocate funds from the Third World to Eastern Europe.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) previously used the funds for humanitarian aid in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but now proposes they be used to support "emerging democracies" in Eastern European countries.

The proposals are contained in an External Affairs document leaked to the press early this year.

"There appears to be a tendency to relate the current day Soviet States to post-World War Two Germany," said Sam Noumoff, director of the Center for Developing Area Studies and a professor of Political Science. This comparison comes from fears that Eastern Europe will

have devastating economic problems, similar to those of post-War Germany.

"In my opinion this is a flawed view," he added.

Projects in Africa will suffer due to the lack of funds, according to Rosalind Boyd, Special Projects Co-

said. "It appears as if these projects will have to be terminated."

"University budgets shall be affected," admitted a CIDA spokesperson in Québec. "These may be anything from five to 12 percent. However, there are no proposed cuts for the McGill University budget."

"The reallocation of funds appears to be the last breath of a dying government,"

—Rosalind Boyd

ordinator of Developing Studies at McGill.

"Over the past ten years we have been organizing medical projects in seven African countries," she

Boyd said CIDA is making "a very grave error" in cutting the aid.

"After years of war and conflict, countries like Ethiopia and Uganda are turning towards democracy and

positive social change," she said. "I think that we've made a very grave error in cutting humanitarian aid."

"Now that the Cold War is over, cuts from the military budget could be used to fund the so-called 'emerging democracies of Eastern Europe'," Boyd added.

She pointed out that the proposed cuts contradicted Canada's foreign policy, documented in an External Affairs policy on foreign aid called "Sharing our Future".

"CIDA is not a monolithic institution," said Boyd. "CIDA decisions appear to be made by politicians. I have a feeling even the vice-president of CIDA doesn't know what's going on."

"The reallocation of funds appears to be the last breath of a dying government," Boyd added.

According to the CIDA spokesperson however, the reallocation proposal was nothing more than "one of many proposed External

Affairs documents which happened to be leaked."

The government has been criticized by a number of NGOs for recent policies. The document also proposes shifting nearly a \$100 million from NGOs to "industrial cooperation" with private sector firms.

Amongst the NGOs concerned with the future of their projects are the Salvation Army and Save the Children Canada.

The reduction of NGO funds would seriously affect projects in education, community development, health and housing. Boyd said she was particularly concerned because the government has not consulted the public on any of these issues.

In Uganda a number of NGOs were involved in training "barefoot doctors". Boyd pointed out that such projects do not cost much money, and said they have been highly successful.

Painting yourself into a corner

BY BRADLEY DAVIES

Planning an ideal summer of house painting? Brush in hand, cap on head and tons of bucks in your pocket? The peak hiring season for student painting companies just happens to coincide with the annual student employment search to finance university and college education.

While it may sound tempting so far, beware! There are many managers and painters who end-up getting screwed by franchise operations. The franchises extract an average royalty of 24 per cent from every paint job, leaving little for the student managers and painters.

Student painters are not a new concept—they've probably been around since paints were invented. What is a relatively new, is national painting franchise operations such as College Pro Painters and Student Works Painting (formerly AAA Student Painters). These companies employ over 13 000 students each year. If you are considering working for one of these companies, read on.

These operations are organized in the following way: First, the franchise executives divide the world into franchise territories and then assign them to an eager bunch of student managers. In exchange for training, promotional materials, and liability insurance the managers agree to pay a royalty on each painting job.

What do the Painters Get?

The managers hire students to do the painting. When the manager lines up some contracts, the business begins. This however, is a big assumption. Many painters are hired thinking they're set for the summer, only to find that the manager has no jobs for them to do. Matt Jackson a 5th year Geography student who worked for College Pro had this problem.

"My vacation time was involuntary. We would get days off simply because our manager had no work for us to do," he said.

The piecework system is used to determine wages. The painters and supervisors receive pay for a predetermined number of hours, regardless of how long it takes to do the job.

According to Chris Thompson, VP of Student Works Painting, "At Canadian Tire, if you work hard, you get paid the same. With the piecework system, the harder you work, the more money you make."

Managers are trained to estimate the number of piecework hours the job will take. They multiply it by their painter's wage rate, add materials, and then mark-up it up by 95 per cent.

In reality, the piecework system has resulted in many cases of workers being underpaid for the amount of hours they work. "My hourly wage for one job worked out to be a whopping \$2.50 an hour, despite the fact that my wage rate was \$6.00 an hour," said Dayton Neil who worked for Student Works Painting.

Another student employee of Student Works had a similar experience as a result of incorrect pricing of the job by the manager. According to U4 Geography student John Magenheimer, "The manager screwed up, so we worked one week for free. The next week, I quit."

What do the Customers Get?

The piecework system is designed to motivate painters to get the job done quickly. It tends however, to encourage sloppy work. The painters simply want to get paid, they have no incentive to do the job properly.

According to Frank Hobes, a professional painter from Toronto, "A good paint job is like a gourmet meal, most of the work lies in the preparation." It is the work underneath the paint which makes a good paint job. Often there is no way to tell if the job has been done properly until the paint begins to peel off.

A good product requires careful work from the painter. Generally, the best way to get high quality work from students is to pay them extra to be careful. However, none of the 24 per cent cut for the head office is available to the painters. It buys marketing materials, and pays the franchise costs, but it does not buy any painting.

What do the Managers Get?

According to Chris Thompson, "The average Student Works manager produces \$48 000 worth of painting contracts in a summer." A 24 per cent cut represents \$11 520 in royalties.

One of the reasons for this royalty, or so they tell you at manager training sessions, is the goodwill associated with the franchise name. When all the franchises combine their promotional efforts, it benefits the managers working under the same name.

While it may be true that the name is better recognized, it may not always be in a positive way. Student painting franchises are plagued with problems of sloppy work. Many customers have heard about bad experiences with other managers from the same company. Thus having a name that people recognize does not necessarily mean goodwill. It could easily mean nasty will.

According to Camron Harold from College Pro Painting in Toronto, "Bad franchises are responsible for 90 per cent of customer complaints and 90 per cent of the painter problems."

In fact, according to Thompson of Student Works Painting, this is the reason his company has changed names three times in the last few years. (from AAA Student Painters, to Student Painters, to the current Student Works Painting).

"We wanted to become the Pizza of the student painting business. Unfortunately, our name became associated with less reputable student painting companies," he said.

Making it in the Cut-Throat

World of Student Painting

The things that you need to succeed in the painting business—good marketing, careful painters, and hard work—cannot be provided by anybody else but yourself. Paying a 24 per cent royalty does not ensure success. Many managers end up quitting before the summer is finished because they figure these things out for themselves.

After paying these costs for a year, I decided to run my own business. To buy insurance, business card, contracts, T-shirts... it cost me a total of \$775. Significantly cheaper than \$11 520 in royalties!

The liability insurance both Student Works Painting and College Pro provide for their managers is a false benefit. A quick call to your insurance agent will reveal that is a small portion of the business expense. For my enterprise, liability insurance costs totalled \$400 for the season.

The difference between running a franchise and employing yourself, is that having your own business allows you to charge less, pay your painters more, and make more money. There are many student painters out there, so you need to work hard. You should also realize that it is a ton of work. Most importantly, you should like painting—because you are going to do a lot of it.

Painting can be a well paying summer job. As a painter, be sure that the manager you work for has some experience. If they have not done it before, they do not know what they are getting into. You may end up discouraged and *sans* pay, if your manager does not provide enough piecework hours. Potential managers should avoid the franchises that want to railroad you into hefty royalty contracts, when you could do it yourself for a fraction of the price.

events

The Black Students' Network will hold a discussion for members on the organization's direction for the future. Today at 18h00, RM 425 Union Building.

The McGill Medical Fraternity is holding an informational open house today. All students are invited to drop in to ask questions, and to find out more about our student organization. Union 310, between 11h00 and 16h00.



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One of Guildford four speaks at McGill

BY DOUG McDONALD

Born of protestant and Catholic parents, and the product of two generations who served proudly in the British Army, Paul Hill says he never thought of himself as being too concerned with the politics of Northern Ireland.

That was of course until the police of Northern Ireland threw him into a British prison for 17 years.

Last Friday night marked the start of the Conference on Human Rights in Northern Ireland, hosted by McGill's Lawyers For Social Responsibility. Speaking were McGill Law Professor Irwin Cotler and Richard Harvey from the U.N.'s International Association of Democratic Lawyers. But by far the most emotional part of the evening was the personal testimony of the framed Irishman Paul Hill.

Hill opened his speech with an ironic remark about the conference "I didn't know there was such a thing as lawyers who are socially responsible," he said. Speaking in a thick Belfast working class accent, Hill gave his testimony which moved from controlled rage to gentle pleading.

He told his story of not being able to find work in Belfast because he was Catholic (most Northern Irish businesses are owned by Prot-

estants). He described how at the age of twenty, he was held for seven days with no charge in a English Prison until a confession was extracted from him. He claims that at this time he was denied his right to a lawyer and was subjected to men-

tears, were Irish at the wrong place and the wrong time. Hill was working 80 miles away from Guildford at the time of the bombing but was considered a suspect as were all young working class Irish, brought in on massive sweep of the region.

meeting with the then prime minister Margaret Thatcher and the then president of the U.S.S.R. Michail Gorbachev, in which Thatcher asked Gorbachev "What about these Siberian camps?" to which the Soviet leader responded "What about

also making the call for a global acceptance of human rights - be they in Davis Inlet, Gaza, Los Angeles or Belfast.

Hill who still lives in London and disagrees with terrorist activity as a way of solving the problems of

In 1954 Paul Hill was born in Belfast Northern Ireland.

In 1968 Paul Hill is forced to leave school to help support the family. Due to economic discrimination against Catholic Northern Irish he eventually moves to London to seek employment.

On October 5th 1974 the I.R.A. detonate a bomb in a crowded Pub popular with the local army base in the Town of Guildford an hour's drive from London.

On November 28th Paul Hill who is working as a labourer is arrested as a suspect in the Guildford bombing. In spite of the testimony of a witness saying he was 80 miles away at the time, Paul Hill spends the next 17 years in prison.

tal torment (a gun held in his mouth a few times) and physical beating at the hands of the British Police.

Hill was finally found guilty of the Guildford bombing along with four other Irish men who, it ap-

Hill attributes his release and the release of other victims of British Kangaroo courts such as the Birmingham six, as being solely the result of the involvement of the international community. He cites a

the Guildford four?"

Now, with the popular support of the British people, the international community is helping to spread the word on human rights abuses in Northern Ireland. It is

Northern Ireland, concluded his talk by saying "We got to be prepared to be the voice of those who don't feel they have one, we have to be able show them that there is another way than violence."

Government aims to lower drop-out rates with destreaming

BY TARA SUTTON

TORONTO (CUP) — In the hopes of reducing high school drop-out rates, the Ontario government will destream the province's grade nine classes next fall.

The NDP announced when it came to power in 1990, that advanced, basic, and general course levels in Ontario grade nine classes would be eliminated by the fall of 1993.

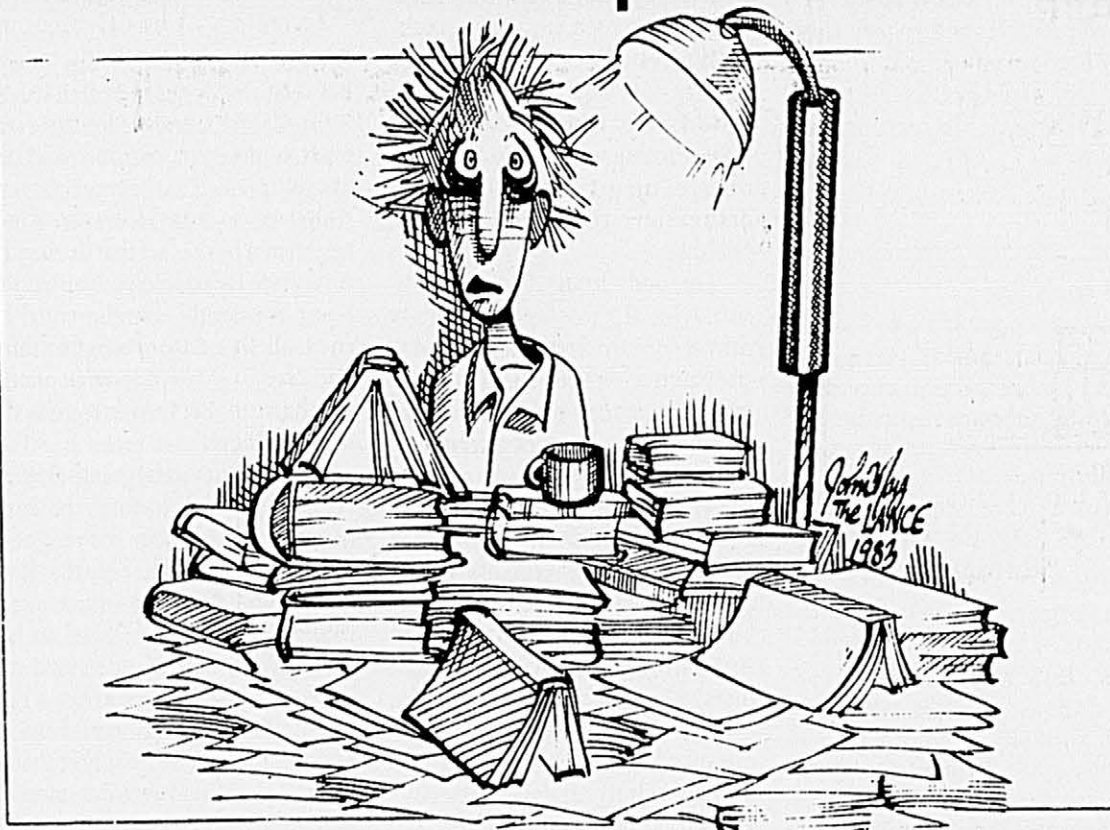
Ontario's high schools currently begin streaming in grade nine, when students are placed in either basic, general or advanced-level courses. In order to enter university, students must complete six Ontario Academic Credits (OAC's), which have advanced-level high school courses as prerequisites.

Students placed in general levels can enter into community colleges. Those with basic-level courses however, cannot apply to any post-secondary institutions.

Keren Braithwaite, English coordinator at the University of Toronto's transitional year program and former chair of Parents of Black Children supports the change. She says streaming students away from advanced courses may discourage them from pursuing goals they have the ability to achieve.

"I believe streaming the students at such a young age cuts them off from possibilities they might otherwise have. Why should we tap that student at that age when we can give them opportunity and flexibility? What kind of a future does a student streamed into the basic level have?" said Braithwaite.

She added that U of T's transi-



They want to stream me?

tional year program sees students who have dropped out of basic-level high school go on to complete university.

Braithwaite says the race breakdown of students who are streamed into lower levels shows that streaming is not a simple reflection of students' academic ability and life goals.

"The alarming thing is that some groups of students are more cut off than others. Toronto Board research shows that black and Native students are disproportionately downwardly streamed in Ontario high schools," she said.

"There are many reasons for this such as racism, curriculum, attitudes

and expectations and staffing. I don't like to talk about streaming in a vacuum."

Although the overall high school drop-out rate in Ontario hovers around 30 per cent, the drop-out rate amongst students in basic levels is 70 per cent.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) says it is concerned that destreaming has never been field-tested. It says the government has not accounted for the amount of training and funding needed to make the program successful.

"We aren't opposed to equity in education but we are not sure that

destreaming is the only alternative. You can't just rush headlong into something without researching it," said OSSTF executive assistant David Oleniuk. He said the \$1.2 million the Ministry of Education has given to train Ontario's 140 000 secondary school teachers is not enough to address the changes in teaching methods, which destreaming will require.

Oleniuk said the OSSTF is also concerned that with overcrowded classrooms, teachers will find it difficult to cater to students of varying ability.

But Ron Mason, an education officer with the Toronto Board of

Education, said studies done by the board in the past three years show that grade nine streaming does not work.

"The information has provided pretty convincing evidence that streaming has not been a success with that age group. Often kids get into the wrong stream," he said.

He brushed off OSSTF's complaints about the ministry's funding for teacher training.

"We're talking about one grade level. There is never enough money."

David Livingstone, a professor in the Department of Sociology in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) says research shows that when classes are mixed, those with lower academic ability do better and students with higher ability lose nothing.

Livingstone is co-author of OISE's Ninth Annual Survey of Public Attitudes in Education, which found that 21 per cent of adult Ontarians think that schools should not be streamed at all, and 52 per cent think it should occur at, or after grade 10. Mason says he doubts destreaming will ever be instituted throughout high school, but it is a possibility for grade 10.

He added that the new grade nine format will probably not result in an increase of applications to university.

"I doubt if we will see more students getting into university because of this, because they are cutting back enrollment. But by not dropping out, hopefully more will be able to attend community colleges and training. We are making an effort to beef up apprenticeships in both the public and the private sector."

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

Apolitical politicians

In 1985 the Students' Society formed the South African Committee (SAC) to work towards the dismantlement of apartheid in South Africa, and entrenched the committee's status in Students' Society's constitution. The formation of this committee and its pressuring of McGill's administration led directly to McGill's divestment of all monies invested in that country.

But now some student politicians are talking about dissolving the group, effectively depoliticizing Students' Society (SSMU) entirely. The argument revolves around the fact that the committee has lost relevance.

I would argue that SSMU has lost relevance.

Apartheid remains a part of everyday life in South Africa, and the reasons for students to speak out against this are still intact. And to have McGill students collectively take a stand on human rights issues is one of the things that makes me realize I'm in university, and not back at central high in hicktown Ontario.

How do our councillors get away with pocketing a cool \$10 000 per year without having to face controversy and discussion? You would think that such a stipend coupled with the title student "politician" would provide enough impetus for councillors to adopt political opinions on issues which go beyond bickering over happy events and money. Nonetheless, SSMU is moving closer to a stance of "change without direction".

Several weeks ago councillors argued that Students' Society should not take a stand on issues that "do not directly affect students", and will vote on this motion at the SSMU meeting Thursday. This is not a new thing. Last year, the vp finance Lev Buckman argued "we students should put politics behind us".

Issues of human rights are issues which do affect students. The university as an institution is linked to events and governments all over the world. If university isn't a place where students can debate and talk about these things then change will never happen.

And the most popular campaign word among newly elected student politicians for next year's council was 'Change'. If student politicians vote to mute themselves on issues of broad political concern then they aren't likely to change any more than the name of a building.

If you're concerned about the fate of SAC or would like to yell at some of these apolitical politicians, show up on Thursday. The meeting is at 18h in the cafeteria of the Shatner building.

Jonathan Desbarats

Letters

Arithmetic of smoking

To the Daily:

Lawren Sack's treatise on the arithmetic of smoking (Letters, March 17) neglects the "multiplier effect" of tobacco: the fact that smokers in a small space, such as the Alley, force everyone else to smoke. Calculate this for an entire academic year, and the numbers of exposed non-smokers becomes quite large.

And one floor up from the Alley, the student society itself is in the business of selling tobacco.

A February 12, 1993 letter from Maria Keenan, Shatner building director, addressed to student clubs, describes the place as a "NONSMOKING BUILDING". But she then goes on to list the exceptions, which in effect convert Shatner into a "smoking building" at night and on weekends.

A study in the May 23, 1992 medical journal *The Lancet* estimates that about 20 percent of the current population of the "developed" countries (a quarter of a billion people) will die of tobacco. In China and other countries, cigarette deaths are rising. This is frightening.

Shloime Perel

erratum

In Monday's story "Zeta Psi members pull offensive stunt" four men are erroneously identified as belonging to the fraternity Zeta Psi. The men: Mike Joes, Ali Almadari, Patrick Evans and Kevin Johns are actually recent pledges to another McGill fraternity. The Daily regrets the error.



hyde park

Learning to value ourselves

Opinion by Jennifer Andrews

Why is it that in our society, beauty is equated with the excessively thin body of a supermodel who constantly reminds us of what is "truly desirable" rather than realistic and healthy?

The Body Image Forum, sponsored by the McGill University Sexual Assault Centre, addresses the prevalence of eating disorders among young women today, by examining how media stereotypes shape the way in which we see ourselves.

I have struggled with anorexia for the past four years of my life, and know the toll it has taken on my body. Yet I am constantly amazed that eating disorders remain "closet diseases", rarely acknowledged by the medical community and sparingly discussed in the same magazines that put skinny models on the covers of their publications.

The support I have found in confronting my distorted body image had been primarily from female

friends. Like me they are caught between the desire to match media images, and the knowledge that every body is different, unique, and not always "perfect" in the most conventional of senses. However, I am frightened by the fact that during the time when I was rapidly losing weight, I was constantly complimented by my male friends for being "so thin" and "sexy". When I look at photographs from that time in my life, the only analogy I can make is with a cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy; my body looks as though it might crumble under the weight of someone's touch. I believe that if we are to acknowledge the seriousness of eating disorders, men need to become more aware of the mental and physical consequences of these diseases. They need to learn how to recognise the tell-tale signs that a friend is starving herself or bingeing and purging. In suggesting this, I don't intend to pass the problem over to men, or lay blame on anyone specifically. Rather I am suggesting that

society as a whole must see the damage that is being done on a daily basis to women's health and self-esteem.

The ironic thing about eating disorders is that most women who suffer from them, find the continued bingeing and purging or starvation to be a way of gaining control of their own lives. Over the past two years, I have had to relearn how to eat healthfully rather than starving myself. But I am still haunted by the incredible feeling of power I got when I refused to eat.

Judging my self-worth through my ability to not eat may sound patently ridiculous to some. The desire to attain the "perfect body", coupled with the fact that I could control my diet on a daily basis unlike the rest of my life, made it an attractive trap. Maybe I am too hopeful in suggesting that the Body Image Forum can prevent or stop this kind of disease. I suspect that what we really need is a change in society; we must learn to value ourselves.

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.



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Dawson Hall Horror Stories

COMPILED BY JUDITH
WEISSMANN

Not too long ago, I found myself at Bifteck, sitting at a shaking table. The table was shaking because one of my friends was spilling his guts and frustration. Every thought was punctuated by a hand gesture, slam or gulp of beer, causing the table to shake.

He recently had some problems with some people at Dawson Hall and Dawson Hall procedures in general. Most of the people sitting at the table did not really know each other in any profound way. Social etiquette usually prevents us from dumping our problems on strangers. But somehow, frustration with Dawson Hall surmounted social barriers, and that night, everybody had a tale of Dawson Hell to share. And everyone had a story that cost them at least \$30 (mine cost me \$170).

We all know that somewhere in one of the many McGill handouts and booklets we receive in the mail each year, various deadlines are printed. Unless you have card-catalogued these handouts you probably have no idea where specific information is. But the fact remains: information about all deadlines is printed somewhere. So no matter what, you can never really claim ignorance, no matter how appealing that option might seem to be.

Now that you know that all information is available to you, you also know that no matter what happens in your life, it's your fault. Sorry, it's true. Well, at least it's true for the people at Dawson Hall. Too bad for you, since important decisions that determine whether or not you have to fork out grocery money to pay for a sixth course because you need five courses and your fifth course now has a "W", are made for you by people who know that no matter what, it's your fault.

We must remember that no matter how numerical our identities are to the people at Dawson, they are human, they make mistakes, and they are confronted by many angry, frustrated and broke students every day. So in attempting to consider these pressures I decided to approach the people at Dawson Hall. Much to my surprise I was told that Jagdish Handa, Associate Dean of Arts would see me right away. (Why was he so busy when I wanted to speak to him about my \$170 mistake?).

"Deadlines are specified in calendars and on various notice boards. If students are in doubt they can come to the Student Affairs office," said Handa. He also said that instructors and departmental advisors offer "invaluable advice on courses and their content" (really?) but that we should not "rely on casual advice made by departmental advisors." Handa also emphasized that after any transaction using MARS, students should always press the "List" function to hear a complete list of the courses. In an attempt to describe the user-friendliness of MARS.



"If you are sitting at home in the middle of the night, and you have doubts, just call MARS."

You might notice that Handa's advice is somewhat useful if the deadline pertaining to you has not yet expired. If it has expired — too bad. Fork up.

The following is a recounting of some of the stories I heard that night. A special thanks to all those who found the time and the energy to submit these tales.

Lord knows why I stayed

My seething hatred for McGill administration and bureaucrats in general began during my first year. The idiots at Dawson forgot to tell me that I had been accepted until I wandered in at the end of August, a few days after the registration deadline. Eventually, I enrolled, but Lord knows why I stayed.

A few months later a friend of mine died and I tried to defer some of my exams. I was confronted by some administrative beast who demanded to see the death certificate, and then told me I should have begun studying earlier. I did get the exams deferred, but only after some long, bizarre negotiations involving a testimonial letter written by another friend's father on my behalf.

Two years ago, I fell ill and missed two months of school. I was forced to withdraw from 18 credits worth of courses, but with no refund. A professor suggested I write a paper over the summer instead of a final, but this was in vain by none other than the Associate Dean himself, Handa. I ended up withdrawing from the

course with no credit and no cash.

— John Saunders

Catch-22

My Dawson Hall nightmare began before I even started at McGill. I haven't thought about it in a long time (possibly because the memory is too painful) and so some of the details are fuzzy, but the gist is this:

The summer after I graduated from high school, I attended an early orientation for students from outside Québec. The purpose of this trip, which wasn't cheap, was, presumably, to get everything settled and avoid administrative hassles in September. Yeah, right.

Back home, a couple of weeks after the orientation, I was busy preparing to leave home and trying to earn money, confident, at least, that my courses were selected and my registration complete. That was when I received a letter from a Dawson Hall advisor of some sort (I remember his name, but I'll protect his identity), whom I had never met, telling me that my registration for an introductory abstract algebra course had been cancelled, because I didn't have the linear algebra prerequisite.

Panicking, I called this man (long-distance) to explain that, as my high school transcript should indicate, I had taken linear algebra. All right, but I'd need proof, a letter from my teacher and my principal — and I'd have to get the McGill professor's permission. I did these things, only to be informed that it was too late anyway; I'd have to wait for drop/add period and add the course by MARS. But why, I now had the boldness to inquire, didn't he call me before can-

celling my registration? I didn't get an answer.

On the first day of school, I went to collect the scholarship money I had coming to me, from McGill and from a private organization. But there was a problem: I wasn't a full-time student. Not a full-time student? Nope. I was registered for only 24 credits, not 27 as before. So how was I supposed to pay my tuition?

That was a couple of years ago, and I'm still here, so obviously everything worked out, but I don't remember how. I think there were a lot of phone calls, forms, and trips to strange new buildings. I know there was at least one tearful phone call to Mom 'n' Dad.

The problem remains unsolved...

Registration for my freshman year took place in the Currie Gym. We were herded around like cattle, bringing scraps of paper from one place to another. It was pretty chaotic. A councillor there filled in the course numbers on my registration form. I remember wondering why I couldn't do this myself. Anyway, she copied down one of the numbers incorrectly.

Now remember that this was my first year and I was pretty confused by all the bureaucracy. Verification came and went. I didn't understand how crucial it was that I scrutinize everything on that transcript. This was before MARS, so verification period was the only chance you had. I just checked my personal information and brought it back to Dawson Hall.

Well, when the term was over and I received my marks, there was an "incomplete" grade for a class I had never heard of and a mark missing for another class in the same department that I had been attending all semester. The prof who taught the class I did take hadn't told me that my name wasn't on the class list (it was a small class, about 15 students, he knew us all by name). He was a visiting professor and, like me, was a little confused by the system. By the time I received my grades he was back in France and untraceable — he was on vacation. I was told to get a signed statement from the professor of the class I didn't take to confirm that I had not been there for the entire term. He was in Poland and the department had no way of contacting him. Two years later, this problem remains unsolved...

Done too much

I never imagined what twists life's road had in store for me. I also never realized how unsympathetic and absolutely arrogant and rigid Dawson Hell can be.

This whole mess started last summer when my father had a stroke diagnosed. I left Montréal to be with him in the hospital, withdrawing from my summer course. No problems, no refunds, even with a surgeon's certificate. "W" grade number 1.

I enrolled in five courses in good

faith that my Dad's condition would improve. For reasons that the medical community only knows, he was sent home to progressively lose his mind, not to remain in proper care. He had a brain tumour. I again could not stay in Montréal and one more time went packing.

I returned just after verification period. My father had lost his mind and did not go gently into that good night. I took care of my mother and all the funeral arrangements then came back to deal with McGill. I was allowed to drop three courses with refund. "W" grades now numbered four.

I needed time to clear my head but I also needed to graduate. I showed up in January to find that I would be one course short of graduation, so I followed proper procedure and wrote Associate Dean Jagdish Handa a letter for permission to enrol in six courses. I also discovered that last semester I mistyped a course on MARS, ergo I was registered for a course I never knew existed, and, not registered for a course that I had attended and caught up for after being absent for the six weeks because I was with my father. Pretty simple for Handa, "yes" to six courses, "W" for the typo course. Not so fast....

Who ever forgets his eyes as he effortlessly turns you down? When asked "Why, why are you turning me down?" his response was "I did too much for you already." Apparently Handa figured that death in the family was not enough of a reason to exercise his powers any differently than he would normally.

I asked him if he had checked my file as to why I had dropped the 3 courses. He thumbed through my documents, "certificate of your ill health, father had a brain tumour and certificate of his death."

Obviously it is no difference to him whether I take six courses or whether I receive a "W" grade as opposed to a "J" grade. "W" grades carry no mark value and merely appear on a transcript. "J" grades carry a mark of zero. This I explained to him. He agreed. He also was going to do nothing to help.

I asked him if he knew what it felt like to hold my father's hand after he no longer knew who I was, and wait for him to die. He said it must have been very traumatic. He would still not do anything.

In a state of disbelief I rose and told him, "I hoped I could come here (his office) and maybe you could seem as not another number but as a human being, and maybe I could see you as not another paper pusher. I was wrong."

Thoroughly exhausted and verging on a breakdown, I spoke to the Ombudsperson Annette Werk, who was quite instrumental in changing my "J" to a "W". To her a heartfelt thank-you. To associate Dean of Arts Handa, who loves ya baby, you made one of life's hardest experiences needlessly harder, and I'll never forget you. Count on this story being re-told a few times.



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Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 4 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.**

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1 - Housing

Leaving Montreal this spring? Do you have a two bedroom apartment? We are interested in subletting with option to renew. Please call, in Ottawa, 613-722-9987.

Sherbrooke & Hutchison, condo built in 1988, 2 or 3 bedrooms, 5 appliances, air conditioned, garden, sundeck, garage extra, \$1,000. 340-1884.

Sublet Wanted: May 1st-Aug, 31st. 1 1/2 in McGill Ghetto. Heat/hot water incl. \$300. Very negotiable! Call Wendy, 844-0414.

Rooms for Rent in large house, Pine near University. Kitchen, living room, pool room, washer/dryer, heating/electricity included. \$275 negotiable. Call Brian (287-9832) 522 Pine.

Beautiful 4 1/2 to Sublet. HUGE BED-ROOMS, hardwood floors, sunny, clean, bug-free, close to campus & metro, rooftop deck, storage. May 1-September 1, w/option, \$620/month inclusive. 989-8814.

Apartment to sublet. Atwater and Sherbrooke. Near Metro. 320.00\$. Call Chris, leave message, 938-4913, April-Aug.

Roommate wanted for April 1st to share large, beautiful 81/2 with 3 others. Near du Parc and Van Horne. \$175 heat included. Woman preferred. Call 948-4284.

Sublet Wanted: May 1-August 31. 1-2 bedroom apt., central, furnished, bright, clean, secure. \$400-450. 937-6011, ext. 3054.

Roommate Wanted to Share comfortable 5 1/2. Outremont wood floors, high ceilings, two balconies. Available April/May '93 to April/May '94 or to Sept. '93. Rent \$330 + phone. Call 948-3039. Ask for James. Queer, Queer + only.

2 - Movers/Storage

Moving/Storage. Closed van or truck. Local and long distance. Ott-Tor-Van-NY-Fla. 7 days 24 hours. Cheap. Steve 735-8148.

3 - Help Wanted

LIFESTYLE=INCOME, TIME, NO DEBT. Have you got the courage to find out how your income and lifestyle can be improved and your dreams achieved. If you're serious we're waiting at 255-7410.

MODELS WANTED. Creative Photos Studio is currently holding free test shoots (photo sessions) for aspiring male and female models. For interview call: 874-7624. Please leave message.

Experienced planters wanted! For contracts in northern Ontario. Hiring has already started. Call Catherine at 937-3802 for details.

Summer openings throughout Montreal in marketing dept. of national firm. No door-to-door or telemarketing. Guaranteed pay, and increases with incentives. No exp., flex hours, work in a fun environment. Montreal 731-0335/West Island 697-2988.

5 - Typing Services

Success to all students in '93. WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, resumés. 24 yrs. experience. \$1.75 double space, 7 days/week. Rapid service. On campus - Peel/Sherbrooke. Paulette Vigneault or Roxanne 288-9638, 288-0016.

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WORD-PROCESSING: on laser printer, WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, theses, CVs, etc. in English/French. Reliable, experienced. On McGill campus. 484-5407 evenings or leave message.

Accurate and prompt word processing with laser printing: term papers, theses, reports, resumés (editing, style suggestions, pick-up and delivery available). Alan: 289-9518.

6 - Services Offered

Free Headshot Sessions for actors, actresses, musicians, comedians, etc. For a limited time only. For appointment call Creative Photos, 874-7624. Please leave a message.

WORK IN CALIFORNIA: Full time or summer, send \$2.00 for info, Oceanside, Dept. MD, P.O. Box 156, Lachine, Québec H8S 4A6.

Need Cash??? File a tax return! Gov't pays you \$199 (minimum) even if you didn't work! Tax returns prepared, \$20. 465-1084 Leave message. Inquiries welcome.

Get an 'A' in French! French Tutor, linguistic major, French mother tongue. Reasonable rates. Call 845-5111.

Macintosh Tutoring: From basics to high-end applications. Microsoft Word, FreeHand, PageMaker, File Management, etc. Phone: 457-3639 (leave message).

HOLIDAY HOMES for dogs, cats, little furryhamsters—anything that moves. Send your pet in a cardboard box to: **THE HOLIDAY HOMES FOR PETS P.I.E. CO. LTD.** Portsmouth.

7 - Articles For Sale

MOVING. Must sell: box frame for futon double bed, large antique oak dresser, big oak desk, jumbo futon couch. All in excellent condition. OIGA: 287-9091 (h), 398-6790 (w).

Fisher Price Porta Crib, almost new \$75; Dorel car seat - Best offer. 398-6790 Tues. or Thurs. Ask for Marian.

386/40, 40MB, VGA Colour Complete System \$975, 120MB Hard Disk \$310, SVGA Monitor \$340. Sales, Service & Support, Call Crown Computer Inc., 683-3853.

11 - Lost & Found

LOST: 1 gold earring in or around McLennan library, Sun., March 7. Sarah 288-0674.

12 - Personal

McGILL NIGHTLINE

PREDICTIONS: The next Nescafé Installment?!?! 398-6246.

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13 - Lessons/Courses

"Law School Bound?" For information about a complete manual designed to guide you through every step of the law admissions process - Call 1-800-661-LSAT (5728).

14 - Notices

McGill Chaplaincy Lenten series continues. "What Constitutes True Greatness." Tonight: Prof. Dorothy Thomas-Edding, 8 pm, Newman Centre, 3484 Peel. Info.: 398-4104.

Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer (above Milton) on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7. A great way to find out about yourself & others.

Myth: A drunk woman wants to get laid.
Fact: The price for drinking is a hangover, not rape.
Believing the myths= attitude.
Perpetuating the myths= sexual assault.
McGill Sexual Assault Centre 398-2700.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) has restarted peer counselling. Anyone interested in LBGM and/or finding out about their sexuality can drop by Shatner Room 417, or call 398-6822. Hours are 7 to 10, Monday through Friday. We're here for you!

15 - Volunteers

We are looking for individuals who are interested in learning more about alcohol and alcoholism and willing to participate in an experiment. Participants will be eligible for a \$500 cash prize to be raffled off at the end of the experiment. Interested? Call Rike at 523-6477.

Women's Health Diet Stress! Healthy young females (16-35) needed for paid study on these issues. Call 398-6136 if interested.

16 - Musicians

Sweat Pump seeks frontman/vocalist/lyricist. Hard fun, rock, ska, edge. Originality & jammability a must. Serious applicants only. MHNNA. Jon 846-0664 or Eric 288-0861.

PARTICIPATE FOR PAY

Chinese, Japanese and Russian Bilinguals to test a new airport translation computer. \$35.00 plus transportation for about one hours' work at Dorval Airport. Call Steve and mention "Airport."

In a visual screening experiment in the McGill Psychology Department. People with normal, corrected normal and imperfect vision are welcome. Call Steve and mention "Vision."

CALL STEVE AT 843-3713

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The McGill Sexual Assault Centre & The Anorexia and Bulimia Foundation of Quebec Present:

Body Image:



Voicing Our Experience Through Our Bodies

A forum to raise awareness about body image issues such as eating disorders affecting both women and men, sexist and racist images of women in the media, body image issues specific to women of colour, and the link between eating disorders and sexual assault.

Keynote Speaker Carla Rice: founder and consultant of the Women and Body Image Project, Regional Women's Health Centre, Toronto. Former coordinator of the National Eating Disorders Information Centre.

Jan Lackstrom, MSW, RSW: will discuss therapeutic modalities and eating disorders.

Dr. Blake Woodside: specialist working with men and eating disorders.

Prof. Berkeley Kaite: will discuss the issues of gender and representation, and the Beauty Myth.

SHAKTI - The McGill Women of Colour Collective: will discuss racist and sexist images of women, and the body image issues specific to women of colour.

Pat Broden: President of the Anorexia and Bulimia Foundation of Quebec.

Friday, March 26, 7:30 pm,
Leacock Building, Room 132

Everyone Welcome. Free Admission. Free Food!

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Minimum purchase 10 wings
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2nd floor only

99¢ GRAN VUESTA!
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2 TACOS POUR .99¢
Offer valid only with this coupon until Apr. 4/93

2 TACOS FOR .99¢
Valid ONLY in upstairs pub from 4-7pm at Carlos' & Pepe's

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.99¢
ALL THE TIME
2nd floor pub

99¢ GRAN VUESTA!
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Offer valid only with this coupon until Apr. 4/93

2 TACOS FOR .99¢
Valid ONLY in upstairs pub from 4-7pm at Carlos' & Pepe's

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